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Cycling across SA for the kids' sake

■ Student's solo trip through country to 'affirm my patriotism'

Janine Oelofse

oelofsej@avusa.co.za

A YOUNG conservation student on his way to setting a new record by cycling from South Africa's northern-most point to its most southern point, is doing it all for underprivileged children.

Currently cycling through the Garden Route, Daniel Vivier, a second year BSc conservation ecology student at the University of Stellenbosch, said yesterday that if he succeeded, he would be the first person in the country to cycle solo from Messina to Cape Town via Cape Agulhas.

He has asked a number of schools to launch fundraising events to help pay for the education of underprivileged children through the Alluvia Give Me a Chance Foundation. In return, he visits the schools and gives inspirational talks to pupils.

"I do presentations to get the kids involved and to get the message across to them that it does not take a lot of energy to go out of your way to help someone.

"I thought if I just did this trip without the charity component, only I would benefit. I feel people should look beyond themselves and I wanted to make this a more worthy cause," Vivier said.

He said along his 3 500km journey he had planned to camp overnight but had been overwhelmed



CHARITABLE ADVENTURER . . . Daniel Vivier, 21, (right) and Alluvia Give Me a Chance founder Delarey Brugman (left) were hosted by Plettenberg Bay attorney Hardy Mills while travelling through the Garden Route.

at the generosity of people he had encountered so far.

"People have been so generous. Through friends of friends I built up connections and wherever I go, people have allowed me to stay in their homes, hotels and B&Bs. It's been unbelievable."

Vivier said Delarey Brugman, the founder of the charity, joined him on a small section of the journey through the Garden Route.

Apart from the charity aspect, he was doing the journey to see if he had what it took to pursue the life of an adventurer and to familiarise himself with his homeland.

"I also am doing this solo journey to give myself a taste of what

it is to be an adventurer. I want to test myself and find whether I truly have the potential to live the life I have always dreamed of."

Vivier, who was born in South Africa but whose parents relocated to Switzerland when he was a teen, said he had always wanted to see the land of his birth. "I have always thought that you cannot call yourself patriotic if you have not experienced the full scope of what your country has to offer.

"I have always known that I have not experienced and seen enough of my own country to satisfy my curiosity and to affirm my patriotism," he added.

Heartbreak of finding T'kei lightning victims recounted

Siya Boya

STORIES of heartbreak have emerged after devastating storms ravaged the Transkei just before Christmas and then again before

on my pension money," said the bereaved woman.

Jubase said yesterday she last spoke to her son last Wednesday, before the storm started.

"He told me he was planning to

next to each other. Their eldest child was under a table. Their youngest child, aged two, was found lying on his mother. He was alive with a few burns on his chest when he was found."

is River in Port Elizabeth.
Picture: SAM MAJELA

Watery River

or dog could not move a